April 25, 1969

cc: W. R. Richard-WRICH
R. Davis
P. G. Benignus
J. G. Bryant

CALL REPORT

ITT BLACKBURN CORPORATION
St. Louis, Mo.

Date of Call: April 8, 1969

For ITT Blackburn: Peter Lee, Sales Manager
Robert A. Strain, Mgr. Dev. Engineering
Gary L. Shurter, Group Leader, Secondary Products

For Monsanto: W. W. Overall

Discussion:

The reason for this visit was to discuss the feasibility of using askarel filled cables where cables are presently being filled with oil. This is the result of correspondence between Jim Bryant and Beamer/Wilkinson and Associates in Oakland, California. These people feel that there is a market for askarel filled cables in areas where a fire hazard is a possibility, such as a shopping center, inside of a hi-rise apartment building, etc.

After discussion with the people at ITT Blackburn, they felt that Beamer/Wilkinson is referring primarily to electric power transmission, not distribution in a highly populated area. This was based upon a voltage of 69 KV which implies transmission rather than distribution. It was their feeling that there is no pressure at the present time for underground installation of cables for transmission applications since the bulk of this kind of work is in open country, (from generation point to distribution center).

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Beamer/Wilkinson is proposing that the sections be prefabricated at a factory prior to installation. This included fixing the potheads in place of a cable section prior to installation. ITT Blackburn felt that this would be enough of a detriment to make the system not feasible. Their reason for this was that in this type of installation, the location of the potheads has to remain flexible to compensate for various misalignments, tolerances, etc. that are inherent when laying an underground transmission line.

Bob Strain stated that he had seen transmission lines up to 69 KV using solid dielectric (polyethylene). It was his feeling that new markets lie in the direction of solid dielectrics. A system such as Beamer/Wilkinson is proposing would involve pumps, seals, casings, etc. The only way this system could be competitive would be an offset in cost to the amount of copper used (or an increase in the current carrying capacity of the same line).

1-703-771-3000 called 6/2 "out for 2 weeks"

Bob Strain admitted that he was not ~~an~~ expert in this field and recommended that we contact Mr. B. E. Smith at Virginia Electric Power at Richmond, Virginia. He presently heads up a task force for the EEI concerning underground transmission lines.

Bob PALLARDY MA1-3222

Gary Shurter, who used to work at Union Electric, suggested that we could contact ~~Mr. Bob Vollardy~~ at U. E. However, he indicated that Mr. Smith at Virginia Electric Power would probably be the best source of information in this field.

In conclusion, they felt that they could see no immediate market of any size for this system. However, they do not profess to be experts in the field and suggested that we contact Mr. Smith as mentioned above.

Mr. Shurter indicated that he would like to visit Monsanto and discuss insulating materials with respect to coatings of busbar connectors. They are presently using a DuPont compound called Nordel with which they are having trouble.

I feel that at this time it is necessary to get more information before making a decision as to continue this project. Therefore, I will be in touch with Mr. Smith in the very near future and make an effort to have him analyze this proposed system.

Wilson W. Overall

/deb

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